RESOLUTION 2020-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA (1) OPPOSING INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S INTENT TO INSTALL A MEDIAN U-TURN ON STATE ROAD 66 FOR THE EPWORTH ROAD INTERSECTION AND (2) SUPPORTING THE INSTALLATION OF A SYMMETRICAL DISPLACED LEFT TURN INTERSECTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana (the "Commissioners") have been informed of the Indiana Department of Transportation's ("INDOT") intent to construct a Median U-Turn for the intersection of State Road 66 ("S.R. 66") and Epworth Road (the "Epworth-S.R.66 Intersection") within Warrick County;

WHEREAS, the Epworth-S.R. 66 Intersection is the single most important intersection in Warrick County;

WHEREAS, the Epworth-S.R. 66 Intersection is: (1) Warrick County's front door; (2) located in an area in which private funds (over \$600,000,000) and Warrick County funds (over \$20,000,000) have been invested; (3) southwest Indiana's regional health care location of choice; and (4) Warrick County's Interstate 69 exit;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners have been informed of INDOT's intent to construct a Median U-Turn for the intersection of Lloyd Expressway and Cross Pointe Boulevard within Vanderburgh County and located to the west of the Epworth-S.R. 66 Intersection;

WHEREAS, the volume of traffic, which includes ambulances (from nearby healthcare facilities), fire trucks (from the nearby fire station), tractor trailers, school buses, box trucks, fuel trucks, campers, and recreational vehicles, on S.R. 66 has significantly increased due to substantial growth in Warrick County, especially along Epworth Road and the Warrick Wellness Trail;

WHEREAS, none of INDOT's proposed improvements to the Lloyd Expressway Corridor (other than Epworth Road and Cross Pointe Boulevard) include the use of a Median U-Turn;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners are the executive and legislative body of Warrick County, and are responsible for the oversight of the road systems located in Warrick County; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners have sought input from all major stakeholders in Warrick County, including property owners, regional health care providers, private investors, realtors, school officials, and local government officials, and all have voiced unanimous objections against INDOT's intent to construct a Median U-Turn and have instead voiced support for other solutions such as a symmetrical displaced left turn intersection to better address current and future planned growth in the area.

NOW, **THEREFORE**, **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana, as follows:

- 1. The Commissioners strongly oppose INDOT's construction of a Median U-Turn for the Epworth-S.R. 66 Intersection in Warrick County or anywhere along the S.R. 66/Lloyd Expressway Corridor.
- 2. Although Median U-Turns may have their place in more rural areas within the State of Indiana or the Midwest, the Commissioners believe the current and future volume of traffic at the Epworth-S.R. 66 Intersection is beyond the capacity to be safely and efficiently handled by the installation of a Median U-Turn, and the Median U-Turn has been unanimously rejected by local stakeholders.
- 3. The Warrick County School Corporation currently uses S.R. 66 as a main artery for taking students to and from school in Warrick County. Median U-Turns will require school buses loaded with children to make dangerous U-Turns on S.R. 66 in order to travel north on Epworth Road.
- 4. The same U-Turn requirement would exist for every ambulance, fire truck, tractor trailer, camper, RV, farm equipment, and all other vehicles that need to go north on Epworth Road while traveling east on S.R. 66.
- 5. There are currently multiple healthcare facilities located on Epworth Road, both north and south of S.R. 66. Patients requiring the need for cancer treatment, orthopedic procedures, and rehabilitation needs, plus the future healthcare expansion that is expected along Epworth Road and the Warrick Wellness Trail (e.g., a new 50,000 square foot digestive care facility that is currently being constructed), will be required to navigate their way through INDOT's proposed Median U-Turn in order to obtain healthcare treatment in this area. Warrick County wants safe and efficient access for these patients to receive their necessary healthcare along and adjacent to Epworth Road.
- 6. The Commissioners recognize that Median U-Turns may be less expensive than the symmetrical displaced left turn intersection proposed by Warrick County for the Epworth-S.R. 66 Intersection. However, the Commissioners encourage INDOT to not spend highway funds on non-effective solutions that are universally disliked by businesses/stakeholders along this Epworth Road Corridor. Instead, the Commissioners encourage INDOT to work with Warrick County and other Counties along the Lloyd Expressway Corridor to prioritize intersections of concern and to develop a long term solution for these intersections, such as the symmetrical displaced left turn intersection proposed and supported by Warrick County, as shown in the attached Exhibit A.

The above Resolution is passed and adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana, this 28th day of September, 2020.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA

Dan Saylor, President

Robert H. Johnson, Jr. Vice President

Terry J. Phillippe, Member

ATTEST

Deborah K. Stevens, Auditor

Warrick County, Indiana

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

Todd I. Glass, Esq.

Warrick County Attorney

EXHIBIT A

